

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations just reported from the Armed Services Committee: Gen. Wesley Clark and Lt. Gen. Anthony Zinni. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10 United States Code, section 601:

To be general

Gen. Wesley K. Clark, 0000.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10 United States Code, section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, 0000.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to note special appreciation to the Armed Services Committee for moving these nominations. I want to thank the chairman for having extra meetings to get these two nominations cleared. I want to thank Senator LEVIN from Michigan.

It would have been a very awkward situation tomorrow and the next day at the change of command of our NATO officials if we had not had Gen. Wesley Clark confirmed and in a position to assume command from General Joulwan. This was a very positive move. I thank the Armed Services Committee and the Senate for their cooperation in these confirmations.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair inform the Senator from Nevada what the parliamentary status on the floor is at this time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the defense bill, S.

936, and the pending question is on Dodd amendment No. 763.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Dodd amendment be set aside for purposes of my offering an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 772

(Purpose: to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make available \$2,000,000 for the development and deployment of counter-landmine technologies)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the clerk to call up amendment No. 772.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 772.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 30, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

() AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR COUNTER-LANDMINE TECHNOLOGIES.—Of the amounts available in section 201(4) for demining activity, the Secretary of Defense may utilize \$2,000,000 for the following activities:

(1) The development of technologies for detecting, locating, and removing abandoned landmines.

(2) The operation of a test and evaluation facility at the Nevada Test Site, Nevada, for the testing of the performance of such technologies.

Mr. BUMPERS. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. BUMPERS. Could the Senator say about how long he anticipates speaking on his amendment?

Mr. REID. About 10 to 12 minutes.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator.

Mr. REID. Several years ago, I and a number of my colleagues took a trip. One of the places we went to was Angola. It was a beautiful country. It is a country that has been devastated by war. We did not see the wild animals roaming the plains as they did at one time. We did not see the oil fields pumping as well as they should have. What we did see were hundreds of people who had been injured by landmines. Their legs were gone, their arms were gone. We, of course, did not see the people who were killed on a daily basis in Angola from landmines.

If Angola were the only place in the world that had been devastated by landmines, perhaps we should not take the time of this body by looking at it. But Angola is important, and where the antipersonnel landmines have ravaged the countryside, we in this body must be concerned.

I rise today, having introduced an amendment to accelerate the removal of millions of abandoned antipersonnel landmines. This is just one more important step in the long and difficult job of stopping forever the killing and

maiming of innocent men, women and children, by these useless relics of warfare and terrorism.

Mr. President, I am appreciative of the work that has been done by Senator PAT LEAHY on bringing to our attention the devastating problem of abandoned landmines. He has fought long and hard and spoken out on this issue, and I appreciate that. He has a long-time commitment to terminating this threat to innocent noncombatants. The whole world, and especially the developing world, owes Senator LEAHY thanks for his leadership in forever banning these instruments of war.

These landmines have limited military utility, with primary value found in the terror and timidity they incite in the enemy infantry. Modern military battles, though, are not won by the infantry. Victory may very well be sealed by the infantry, but the battle is won by the air, by the artillery and by the armored mechanized forces.

My amendment responds to a terribly tragic situation in which an unnecessary weapon remains long after battle, and wreaks its terror and its death and destruction on innocent civilians.

Mr. President, I am going to recite some statistics that are unbelievable, for lack of a better description.

It is estimated that there are more than 100 million of these landmines buried and abandoned in 64 different countries. That is one landmine for every 50 people on this Earth. I have talked about Angola. The Angolan war lasted for much more than a decade. The country of Angola has 10 million people in it, but buried in the dirt in Angola are more than 20 million landmines, 2 landmines for every person in Angola.

They are buried, they are unexploded, they are unrecovered, and they are waiting for women and children, principally, to step on them. Why women and children? Because the women are often the ones to work the fields and the children are the ones that often unknowingly stray into the abandoned minefields.

In Angola, 120 people die every month from landmines. Four people a day in Angola are killed. This does not take into consideration the scores, the hundreds of people that I saw in Angola missing legs and arms.

Every month in Cambodia, 300 Cambodians are casualties—10 casualties each and every day.

Afghanistan, Mozambique, Croatia, Bosnia, Vietnam—in all these countries, and more, the toll mounts.

We were in Bosnia a year or so ago. While we were there a call came over the commander's radio, a call reporting a landmine casualty. It was a Russian who had had a leg blown off by a landmine. These are occurrences that happen all the time.

In the world, we have about 70 casualties a day, 500 each week, 30,000 a year. These casualties are unnecessary, and without action on our part—we cannot leave it to anyone else—they

are going to continue to be unavoidable.

Most of those killed and injured have not done anything but try to farm, walk to school, walk to the market, walk to a hospital, take a shortcut home. Some of the children are just playing in the fields around their homes. But, on this day, playing around their homes, their farms or their schools, a landmine goes off, killing or maiming the child.

Think of it, Mr. President, every day not knowing whether any particular step you take is going to wind up in death or losing a limb or limbs. People should not have to live that way.

We, as the most powerful Nation in the world, have an obligation, I believe, with the great scientific minds we have in this country, to figure out a way to better detect those mines and to remove them.

Estimates from a year ago projected that about 100,000 landmines were being removed each year while about 2.5 million mines were being placed in the Earth each year. So what does this mean? Humanity, zero; landmines, 2.4 million every year. That is no contest.

Like most problems, the abandoned landmine problem is rooted in economics. How much does it cost to remove a landmine? Lots of money, up to \$1,000 a landmine. How much does it cost to place a landmine in the ground? A couple bucks. That is all.

The recovery costs go up dramatically when the mine field maps are lost or purposely destroyed or become so old as to engender no confidence in the minds of the recovery crews.

If we do not outlaw antipersonnel landmines, the economics guarantees proliferation of this barbaric practice. The economics of mine warfare guarantee more death and maiming and destruction unless these devices are forever outlawed and stockpiles around the world are quickly destroyed.

But the world community might not outlaw antipersonnel landmines because they are so cheap and easy to use. I say that antipersonnel landmines have no place in a civilized world. We must stop the distribution of these implements of terror that spread permanent disability, disfigurement, and death wherever they have been used.

There is pending in the Senate a bill to permanently ban the use of antipersonnel landmines. I support that legislation, as do 58 other Senators. This is the legislation that has been led by Senator LEAHY.

But even if the Senate supports this ban, others in the world community may not. The best and most effective way of banning landmines is to make them useless by making their discovery cheap and easy and by developing faster and cheaper ways of clearing landmines. This would be both a humanitarian advance and a lifesaving action for our troops on combat missions.

To do this successfully we must better develop capabilities to locate bur-

ied landmines, and then we need to develop new and more effective ways to clear them.

A few months ago, Mr. President, I made a tour of the lab at Livermore in California, one of our national laboratories. I said to them, how much money are we spending to find a way to remove these landmines? They said about \$100,000 a year.

We can do better than that.

The magnitude of this task is significant. If one man could locate and recover one landmine every hour, that would be eight devices per 8-hour day per man in the field. Today's technology, of course, does not allow us to do it anywhere near as quickly as that. But even at that rate, which we cannot achieve today, it would take 1,000 men working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 34 years to remove the landmines that are now buried. But remember, we are putting in about 2.4 million extra ones each year.

There are a lot of ideas out there of what we can do. We need to focus on developing and deploying landmine remediation systems while continuing the research that promises better capability in the future.

An area of the Nevada test site has been equipped and used by our national laboratories for testing new ways of landmine detection and location. For example, at the Nevada test site, which was used for underground nuclear explosions and aboveground nuclear explosions, we can test these in many different ways. Systems were tested that permitted remote locations of buried landmines under favorable conditions. But much improvement is needed because conditions are almost never favorable.

We will shortly begin testing a new concept that promises a better performance, and has the added value of detecting nonmetallic landmines, because the people who develop these weapons of destruction have gone a step further. They are no longer metal, they are plastic. This new concept allows detection and discrimination of buried objects at much greater depths. But we need to do something to develop the technique.

As progress is made in landmine detection and location, we need to develop and test better ways of landmine recovery and destruction. We can do that. That is what this amendment is all about. There is plenty of talent, scientifically, to do it. We just need the support for infrastructure, personnel, equipment, and field work to do something about it.

I say, again, antipersonnel landmines have no place in the future of civilized nations. We need to get on with developing better capability to remove these devices that are already deployed. Cheaper and faster landmine clearing will protect both innocent civilians and our combat troops and it will remove much of the incentive to spread more of these terrible instruments of terror, injury, death, and destruction.

The amendment I have submitted today will permit our national laboratories to use their superb talents for accelerated development of landmine detection and clearing technologies. The report language for the National Defense Authorization Act includes direction to the Department of Defense to establish more effective collaboration with the weapons laboratories of the Department of Energy.

This amendment is consistent with that direction. It will apply an existing national resource to this important mission and it will facilitate the development and testing of a new technology that promises mine detection performance well beyond that of any existing capability. This amendment will make antipersonnel landmines useless by cheap and easy detection, localization, and removal.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to proceed for 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, several weeks ago I stood at this desk during the debate on the budget resolution and offered an amendment that I thought was an eminently serious, major, defining amendment on that bill. I have been here 22½ years and I knew perfectly well that I was not going to prevail on that amendment. But I had pointed out during the course of the debate that in the 22½ years I have been here, probably the most important goal I had hoped to see achieved during my tenure in the Senate was a balanced budget.

I had, on several occasions, voted against a constitutional amendment to balance the budget simply because of my reverence for the Constitution and for my belief that economic policy has no place in the Constitution. I had always argued and will argue until my dying day that balancing the budget is a matter of will by the Members of the U.S. Congress, and to suggest that the only way we can screw up the nerve and stiffen our spines to balance the budget is to put it in the Constitution is demeaning in the extreme.

So that is why in 1993 I voted for the reconciliation bill that raised taxes and cut spending. It raised taxes on 1½ percent of the wealthiest people in America and cut spending by \$250 billion over a 5-year period, all of which